

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9659

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4744

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION KINSHASA FROM LUBUMBASHI MAY 13
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0459

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PINS
SUBJ: REPORTED MILITARY ACTION IN KOLWEZI

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0456

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT ON MILITARY SITUATION BASED ON DISCUSSIONS
WITH GECAMINES DIRECTOR PICQUET AND OTHER GECAMINES EMPLOYEES.
GECAMINES MAINTAINING TELEPHONE CONTWCIWITH KOLWEZI.

2. INVADING FORCE CONSISTS OF 500-1000 EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES.
INVADERS WEARING FATIGUE UNIFORMS WITH SASH AND TIGER INSIGNIA.
MILITARY UNIT DESCRIBED AS "TIGER BRIGADE". INVADERS ATTACKED
ON FOOT FROM SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST.

3. MOST FIGHTING CEASED AS OF 1300 LOCAL TIME. CITY OF KOLWEZI
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HAS ESSENTIALLY FALLEN TO INVADING FORCE. AT LAST REPORT,
MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS WAS STILL HOLDING OUT BUT WAS SURROUNDED
AND BEING MORTARED. FAZ EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING HEAVY WEAPONS AND
ARMORED CARS ARE IN INVADERS' HANDS. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF LIGHT
AIRCRAFT WHICH ESCAPED DESTRUCTION DURING THE ATTACK ON AIRPORT
HAVE ALSO BEEN SEIZED.

4. GECAMINES REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF WOUNDED INCLUDING APPROX 25 EX-KATANGANS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO ITS CLINIC AT KOLWEZI. NO REPORTS OF ANY EXPATRIATES KILLED OR WOUNDED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENT CHILD. INVADERS HAVE BEGUN ROUNDING UP EXPATRIATES WITH COOPERATION OF FOUR GECAMINES EXPATRIATES WITH INTENTION OF PLACING THEM ALL IN SAFE-HAVENS IN CENTRAL CITY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CIS EMPLOYEES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS OPERATION, AS ITS CAMP AND HOUSING IS LOCATED ON FRINGES OF THE CITY.

5. GECAMINES KOLWEZI EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT ANY LEADERS IN THE INVADING FORCES BEYOND SERGEANT RANK. PRIVATES TOLD EXPATRIATES THAT THEY INTEND TO MARCH ON LIKASI TOMORROW MAY 14.

6. ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER SPOKE WITH ACTING REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ALEMO AND 8TH MILITARY CIRCUMSCRIPTION COMMANDER COL SASA AT 1600, WHO ADMITTED THAT LARGE PORTIONS OF THE CITY OF KOLWEZI HAD FALLEN INTO INVADERS' HANDS. FAZ HAS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED THE BRIDGE ON THE KOLWEZI-LIKASI ROAD WITH THE AID OF TWO GECAMINES BULLDOZERS. FAZ ELEMENTS BEING DEPLOYED IN TWO DEFENSE LINES - ONE BETWEEN LIKASI AND KOLWEZI, THE OTHER BETWEEN LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI.

7. HAVESPOKEN TO SASA AND ALEMO ABOUT POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF TWO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN LIKASI, UNLESS ADVISED DIFFERENTLY.
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RECENTLY, WILL SEEK WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE ABOVE TO SEND VICE-CONSUL O'LEARY TO LIKASI TOMORROW MAY 14 TO PICK THEM UP AND RETURN TO LUBUMBASHI.

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UNQUOTE CUTLER

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